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Dear Josh,

As you know, the History of Science Society is reviving Osiris (the companion journal to Isis -- for longer essays -- best known of course for its publication in 1938 of Bob Merton's PhD thesis).

The inaugural issue of the new series already has many first class contributions, on subjects from medieval mechanics to quantum physics. As we launch out I'm especially anxious to accent the biological as well as the physical sciences. I now have on hand an interesting essay on "Recombinant DNA technology and the transformation of molecular biology, 1972-1982." Contemporary history indeed!

The manuscript has already been through one revision, following a critical reading by a professional historian of science. But before we go to press I'd like to get a "nihil obstat" if not an imprimatur from someone who knows the story from the inside. And -- needless to say -- you yourself definitively enter history here, as one of the leading actors and authorities cited by the author.

Would you be so kind as to look at the manuscript for me? What is needed at this stage is not so much a detailed criticism as an assurance that the story is recognizable to you, and contains no gross errors of fact or interpretation. Writing these first histories of very recent events is itself a novel and uncertain business so, as I know you will understand, the question is not whether you agree with the author's interpretation but whether the essay gives us all a useful point of departure.

If you will signal your willingness to undertake this task for Osiris, by a call to 215/898-5575, we will have the manuscript mailed to you without delay.

It was very good to see and talk with you two weeks ago. Thank you for your thoughtful help. I await developments on the Dreyfus front with a lively curiosity!

As ever,

Arnold



AT/pp

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